The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of ITU or its Membership. The author can contacted by e-mail at tim.kelly@itu.int.
The “Telegraph Community” of 1865
ITU: Helping the world communicate

- UN specialized agency, concerned with the development of telecommunication networks and services worldwide
- Founded in 1865; Private sector involvement since 1869
- 189 Member States; 650+ Sector Members; 80+ Associates
- Around 790 staff / 83 nationalities
- Headquarters in Geneva, 11 regional offices

Website: http://www.itu.int
The Mandate …

• Treaty-level documents
  — Constitution and Convention
  — International Telecom Regulations
  — Radio Regulations

• Plenipotentiary Resolution
  — Resolution 101: IP-based networks
  — Resolution 102: Management of Internet domain names and addresses
  — Resolution 130: Information and communication network security
  — Resolution 133: Management of Internationalised domain names and addresses
Some recent relevant work …

• ITU leading organisational role in WSIS
  — Geneva, 10-12 December 2003
  — Tunis, 16-18 November 2005

• Workshops and Symposia (examples)
  — ccTLD workshop, 3-4 March 2003
  — Regional IP Symposia (Kigali, Moscow etc)
  — Management of <.int>, 15-16 September 2003
  — Internet Governance, Feb 26-27, 2004
  — SPAM, May/June 2004

• Publications and research
  — ITU Internet Reports (5 editions since 1997)
Strengths and weaknesses of intergovernmental organisations

**Strengths**
- International legitimacy, credibility and accountability
- Independent and neutral
- Observance of due process
- Wide membership representation
- Presence of Sector Members (ITU)

**Weaknesses**
- Perceived to be slow to react and bureaucratic
- Unclear division of work between organisations for new issues
- May not effectively represent views of non-governmental stakeholders
A few words on WTO …

• Created in 1994/95 (successor to GATT)
• An intergovernmental organisation dealing with the global rules of trade between nations
• 146 Members governments
• Major relevant agreements
  — General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)
  — Trade-related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
• Disputes settlement process
• Doha Round of negotiations (deadline 1/1/05)
  — Mandate includes e-commerce